
Title: HISTORY OF PAGAN

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THE OBJECTIVE HISTORY OF PAGAN

Ages ago, in what is called First Epoch, there was considerably more land upon which mankind could walk. The Zealans, forebears to the Pagans, worshipped three who ruled the emotions.

Amoras, beautiful and spirited, was the goddess of love and joy. Her counterpart was angry Odion, ruler of war, hate, and grief. Between them stood Apathas, he who controlled indifference, representing both the balance and absence of his two

comrades. According to legend, these three gods and goddesses were responsible for bringing the emotions to light in their followers, though sometimes I think it was the people's emotions that resulted in the appearance of these Ancient Ones, as they are now called.

Though the Zealans were not known for valuing peace between their various tribes, one leader did step forward to unite them for some time. He was known as Khumash-Gor, and was considered a great warrior. He brought his people together by conquering most of the other tribes and then integrating them into his own. The unified

community grew and prospered under his rule, until he was assassinated several decades into his reign. After the death of Khumash-Gor, the Zealans fell again into quarrelling tribes. However, not until the coming of the Titans was their culture ever truly threatened.

Many centuries after the fall of Khumash-Gor, a strange entity known only as The Guardian began to speak in the minds of several of the people. At first those who claimed to hear the unusual voice were ridiculed, but when the message began to foretell danger, others found a reason to listen.

The words of warning from the mysterious Guardian came much as a shock to the Zealans and to the Ancient Ones. No one had ever heard of the champion of evil called the Destroyer, nor were they certain of his designs upon the world. However, the few people who learned of the Destroyer spread their message quickly. They constructed the Great Temple and the black obelisk, while the Ancient Ones commanded those who still obeyed to wage war against this new religion.

The followers of the new order became known as Pagans. As they were directed, they began to concentrate their worship, through the black obelisk, choosing the very elements of earth, water, air, and fire as the objects of this worship. Soon the elements began to form into actual beings of tremendous power. When the

Destroyer finally appeared, the four beings, the four Titans as we call them today, rose up to fight it. During the terrible battle, the world was ravaged as the skies darkened overhead, the lands were torn apart by earthquakes and liquid fire, and the seas overcome by raging storms. The battle was long, but the Titans emerged victorious -- the Destroyer was no more. However, the world still lay in ruin.

The few people who remained gathered on this isle, which they named after the island's volcano, Morgaelin. It was a dismal time. The Titans began to fight among themselves for power. The wars between the few surviving Zealans and the Pagans continued. It was apparent that something had to be done, yet the question of what filled everyone's mind. After the defeat of the Destroyer, the people were faced with a great many problems. The wars between the Pagans and the Zealans were costing many lives, while the bickering Titans seemed almost worse than the Destroyer threat they had so mightily eliminated. Foremost on the minds of the Pagans was how to handle the Titans -- no simple task, I assure you. Knowing they could not best the four, nor wanting to since they considered the Titans their saviors, the elders elected instead to bargain with the elementals. They built four areas and made them sacred to the Titans, one for each. A man named Moriens went

to the Hall of the Mountain King, the sanctuary of Lithos. He spoke to Lithos and begged for the quakes to end. Lithos agreed, but demanded that he receive a boon in exchange. He bade that the people would be given to him upon their deaths to serve him eternally in his Pit of Death.

The idea of burial was first introduced as a means for the people to be conveyed to Lithos. Both sides accepted the pact, with Moriens granted the magical powers necessary to honor the Pagan half of the bargain. But as Moriens began to feel the effects of aging, another pact was formed, whereby Moriens could pass on his abilities to subsequent Necromancers -- the term given to the mages responsible for sending the dead to Lithos.

Much time passed before Hydros could be placated. The hero and Necromancer Kalen found love with his Apprentice. Yet the Lurker, displeased that, unlike her brother Titan, Lithos, she had not the worship of the people, chose to take from Kalen his beloved. The angry Kalen sought the assistance of his patron, who was quite willing to assist in vengeance.

Lithos told of a substance called Blackrock which could be used to seal Hydros within her Temple, for Hydros could not use her waves to wear down the mineral. Using his Necromantic powers, Kalen reshaped the Blackrock around the Temple and

trapped Hydros inside.

substance to completely
remove all traces of
water around the Titan,
Kalen was stopped by the
Lurker's pleas. In
exchange for her life,
Hydros agreed to return
the body of Kalen's
betrothed and confer
some of the powers of
Tempestry, the magic of
storms and water, upon
Kalen and all of his
descendants. In addition,
offered the Titan, she
would end the torrential
rains. Trapped even still
in the defiled Temple of
Flowing Waters, Hydros
remains appeased.

More years passed and a
wise man named Stellos
was contacted by
Stratos, Titan of Air, in
the form of a mystic
voice. She gave him the
power to heal the sick
and wounded. Kalen
learned of Stellos'
abilities and visited the
elderly man. He brought
with him the hopes of
returning life to his
beloved. Stellos spoke
with Stratos and was
told that much time had
passed since the spirit
was with the body. Only
a great cost could she
be resurrected. A giving
man, Stellos agreed to
pay the unknown fee.
He sent his spirit deep
into the realm of Air and
saw many unusual things.
Finally, as the wizened
man came upon a great
brilliance, his body's mouth
opened on the ground
below breathed life into
Kalen's beloved. He
returned to his material
form only to learn that
he had forever lost his
vision. So thankful was
Kalen that he called upon

the ground to form the
foundation for a building,
which Stellos opened as a
place of study for those
who wished to learn the
tenets of Air. In addition,
Stratos granted one
further boon to the kind
and gentle Stellos --
that of immortality! To
this day, Stellos aids and
teaches the magic of
Theurgy upon the
formation at Argentrock
Isle.

Centuries after the great
miracle of Stellos, five
Theurgists sought to quell
the raging fires of
Pyros, Titan of Fire.
They took their knowledge
of history -- never
forget the value of
studying the past, my
friend -- and speculated
that Blackrock might be
used against Pyros as
well as Hydros. They set
about gathering as much
of the dark material that
they could, as well as
collecting knowledge about
the magics necessary to
shape it. Drawing a
pentagram upon the
ground, the five began to
call upon the Lord of
Flame as ready to offer
a sacrifice.